

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/509,500

Examiner

Matthew O. Savage

Applicant(s)

STOCKBOWER, DAVID

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 8-10-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 18, 21, 19, and 20 renumbered 1-8, respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John E. Pillion on 10-19-06.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus which comprises:

a bowl having a collar with slots;

a filter cartridge that includes an elongated filter medium having a first end and a second end;

a first end cap sealed to said first end of said elongated filter medium, said first end cap having at least two flanges formed integrally therewith, said flanges extending outward from an outer vertical surface of said filter medium;

a boss on an outer surface of each of said flanges, each said boss configured to cause portions of the collar including the slots ~~on said collar of said bowl~~ to expand outwardly when each said boss is rotated into position until the bosses fit into the slots of said collar;

a second end cap sealed to said second end of said elongated filter medium;

a wall of a fluid passageway sealed to said first end cap plate to provide fluid communication to an open interior within said filter medium;

a fluid porous housing surrounding an outside surface of said filter medium; and

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wherein the filter cartridge and bowl are locked together to be installed and removed as one piece.

The second paragraph of page 7 has been amended to include to shown deletions and additions, and to clarify the last sentence of the paragraph as follows:

-- In another aspect of this invention, the collar of this invention is provided with slots which extend through the thickness of the collar. The slots mate with bosses on the key to provide an improved fit between the collar and the key, The bosses are configured to cause portions of the collar including mating slots on the collar to expand outwardly when the key is rotated into position until the bosses fit into the ~~open~~ open slots. The bosses 106 and 108 illustrated in FIG. 10 are configured with an angled edge that causes the mating slots on the collar to expand outwardly when the key is rotated into position until the bosses fit into the open slots. At the point of fitting, the slots contract toward each other and thus overlap with the bosses rendering ~~renders~~ it more difficult for the key to become detached from the collar during use. --.

The fourth paragraph of page 7 has been amended to include to shown deletions and additions, and to clarify the last two sentences of the paragraph as follows:

-- Referring to FIG. 10, an end cap 92 of this invention comprises a fluid passageway 94 having O-rings 96 and 98. The end cap 92 includes a plate 100 having flanges 102 and 104 with grooves 112 and 114 respectively on a lower surfacee adjacent the filter medium of each of the flanges, the groove shaped to mate with an

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inner surface configuration of said collar attached to said bowl. the The flanges 102 and 104 fit into slots of a housing such as slots 86 shown in FIG. 9. The flanges 102 and 104 also are provided with bosses 106 and 108 which promote securing the end cap 92 to the collar. The end cap 92 is secured, such as by bonding, to an end of a filter cartridge such as illustrated in FIG. 2. --.

The fifth paragraph of page 7 has been amended to include to shown deletions and additions as follows:

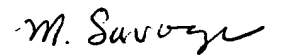
-- Referring to FIG. 11, an alternative end cap 110 of this invention is shown. The end cap 110 does not include the bosses of the end cap of FIG. 10. The end cap 110 includes a plate 100, flanges 102 and 104 with grooves 116 and 118 respectively on a lower surface adjacent the filter medium of each of the flanges, the groove shaped to mate with an inner surface configuration of said collar attached to said bowl, a fluid passageway 94 and O-rings 96 and 98. The flanges 102 and 104 fit into slots of a collar of a bowl such as shown in FIG. 9. --

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Stankowski is considered the closest prior art, however, the reference fails to teach or suggest the limitation of each said boss configured to cause portions of the collar including the slots to expand outwardly when each said boss is rotated into position until the bosses fit into the slots of said collar as recited in claim 1.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.


Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

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